



November 5, 2008

Special Bulletin A
Former Mohr Orchard Site
Intersection of Courtland Drive and Rome Court
Schnecksville, PA 18078

ATTN: James Burke, Division Director
Hazardous Site Clean-up Division (3HS00)

THRU: Dennis P. Carney, Director
Office of Preparedness and Response

THRU: Gerald T. Heston, Chief
Eastern Response Branch

I. Issue

An assessment was conducted in accordance with the National Oil and Hazardous Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP), 40 CFR Part 300. The OSC has identified a release of lead in to the environment resulting in contamination of potable private wells. The release meets the criteria for conducting a removal action under Section 300.415 of the NCP. The OSC has determined that immediate funds are needed to mitigate the threat posed to human health and the environment. The OSC has authorized a budget for the removal action not to exceed \$250,000, in accordance with EPA redelegation of authority 14-2.

The Special Bulletin documents the scope of work needed to complete the removal action to protect public health and the environment.

II. Background

A. Site Description

The areas identified for this site are within North Whitehall Township and are currently being used for residential or public use, and formerly were used for the commercial growing and harvesting of fruit from orchard trees. Lead arsenate pesticide was applied to this site area in the past in the former orchard areas.

B. Site Background

EPA has been requested by North Whitehall Township, the PA Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) to investigate the potential for adverse human health exposures to contaminants that may have resulted from lead arsenate pesticide applications to former

orchard areas. The assessment includes both soil and potable private well water sampling. These samples are analyzed for both lead and arsenic.

C. Types of Substances Present

The presence of lead has been confirmed at high levels well above the MCL in potable private wells.

D. National Priorities List

The Former Mohr Orchard site is not on the National Priorities List (NPL). The Site is part of an emergency response

E. State and Local Authorities Roles

PADEP requested EPA to investigate contamination from the application of lead arsenate at this site. EPA is coordinating this investigation and action with both PADEP and North Whitehall Township.

III. Threats to Public Health or Welfare or the Environment

Section 300.415 (b) (2) of the NCP, 40 C.F.R. § 300.415 (b) (2), identifies factors to be considered in determining the appropriateness of a removal action. Paragraphs (i), (ii) and (v) of that section directly apply as follows to the conditions at the Former Mohr Orchard Site:

- (i) Actual or potential exposure to nearby human populations, animals, or the food chain from hazardous substances or pollutants or contaminants;

High levels of lead are present in potable private drinking water wells at this site. Residents are currently exposed through the ingestion of this lead contamination in their food chain.

- (ii) Actual or potential contamination of drinking water supplies or sensitive ecosystems;

High levels of lead are present in potable private drinking water wells at this site. Residents are currently exposed through the ingestion of this lead contamination in their drinking water supply.

- (v) The availability of other appropriate federal or state response mechanisms to respond to the release;

PADEP can not respond to this contamination due to a restriction in HSCA regarding response to contamination resulting from agriculturally applied pesticides. North Whitehall Township has no resources to respond.

IV. Determination of Emergency

The OSC has determined, based upon information gathered through and emergency response and interviews, that a hazardous substance has been released to the environment. The Site conditions constitute an emergency.

V. Proposed Actions and Estimated Costs

A. Actions

Provide bottled water to residents with potable private wells where concentrations of lead exceed 11 ppb.

B. Estimated Costs

	Ceiling
ERRS	\$150,000
START	\$ 50,000
UNALLOCATED	<u>\$ 50,000</u>
	\$250,000

C. Contribution to Remedial Performance

A remedial action is not anticipated and therefore this removal action is not inconsistent with any proposed remedial action.

D. Compliance with ARARS

The removal action will comply with all Applicable or Relevant and Appropriate Requirements (ARARs), to the extent practicable, considering the exigencies of the situation.

VI. Expected Change in the Situation should No Action be Taken or Action Delayed

Residents will continue to be exposed to ingestion of lead causing serious health effects.

VII. Outstanding Policy Issues

There are no known outstanding policy issues for this Site.

VIII. Enforcement

The OSC will continue to coordinate with the state and local officials in an attempt to identify potentially responsible parties.

Richard M. Fetzner
Federal On-Scene Coordinator
EPA Region III